

FLYING SAUCER DIGEST

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UNITED AERIAL PHENOMENA AGENCY

ON THE COVER

It was said that during the invasion of Persia in 334 A.D. Alexander The Great viewed with his officers and men, flying shields in the sky during the Battle of The Granicus. Alexander won the battle, and decided that the flying shields were a good omen.

FSD: THIRTY YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING STRONG

by Allan J. Manak and Rick R. Hilberg

1997 marks the 50th anniversary of modern ufology, and most notably the now legendary report made by Kenneth Arnold in the state of Washington. Editor Manak recently reminisced about his early interest in the subject, and how he clipped the newspaper account of the Arnold observation (which he still has) and got started on a great adventure into the unknown. It has been 50 years of fascination and awe, and also some measure of frustration, because intense investigations by thousands of persons has failed to reveal the secrets of the elusive discs. One has to wonder what mankind will uncover during the next 50 years, and how historians will view our current quest for answers to this giant enigma.

But 1997 also marks another anniversary in the UFO field. Literally 30 years ago to the day you read these words, Flying Saucer Digest launched its first issue. We know many of our readers will remember, because they have stuck with us all these years and 136 issues. That's why we both say that we must be doing something right, because our circulation is at its all time high. That's why we plan on sticking to our policy of covering the "nuts and bolts" aspects of the UFO mystery, and leave the wild speculation to others; which is probably why most other UFO-oriented publications rarely have more than a three year run.

That's why we want to thank all of you readers for your support, comments and material you've been providing us. And we also have to thank Carol Hilberg and Bunny Owens, because without their untiring efforts there literally would be no Flying Saucer Digest.

We hope to have many more anniversaries for FSD, and hope you'll stick with us.

UFO BITS AND PIECES

by Allan J. Manak

A BIG THANK YOU: A big thank you for all the orders we had from the UFO AND PARANORMAL PHENOMENA SOURCEBOOK. So far it has been a great success. Every January from issue No. 140, 144, 148, etc. we at UAPA will have a special extra large FSD that will include more articles and photos along with an extra large selection on Collectors Corner and specialty items. Be sure to watch for this very special issue beginning in 1998. Also, for those of you who haven't yet ordered a copy of our new Sourcebook, you can send \$2.00 (refundable with first purchase) to P.O. Box 347032 Cleveland, Ohio 44134.

NOW THREE PLANETS ORBITING LALANDE 21185: University of Pittsburgh astronomer George Gatewood reports that a third Jupiter-mass planet might be orbiting the nearby star Lalande 21185. The purported planet would take more than 30 years to complete an orbit. The previously announced planets, both with roughly the mass of Jupiter, have orbital periods of about 6 years and 30 years. If these planets exist, rapidly advancing technology could make it possible to image one or more of them within a

year. Source: Astronomy Magazine, November 1996.

A UFO LANDING IN 1922: "Sir, --The existence of flying objects that carry people from other planets is highly probable and not a laughing matter. I would like to tell of an incident that happened many years ago, before people accepted the fact that from time to time we have unearthly visitors in our midst. It was on an April night, the year 1922, the place County Donegal in the Irish Republic. A civil war was raging at the time and the army that I belonged to was fighting scattered rearguard actions -- mostly in the mountains. One evening, tired and dispirited, I laid down in the entrance to an old cave. In the fading twilight I noticed that practically all the gorse bushes and grass that grew around the entrance to the cave were scorched and burnt. The only occupants of the cave were sick and wounded men who were unable to walk. The six able-bodied soldiers who were looking after them told me a strange story which, at the time, seemed very far-fetched and unconvincing.

"It appeared that early that morning they were awakened by a whirring noise from outside. Thinking it was an enemy armoured car, they immediately opened fire. In the darkness before the dawn it was hard to see the object they were shooting at, but after a brisk fusillade of shots, the object retaliated by firing jets of flame at the cave. The defenders had to withdraw in face of the fierce heat. All the undergrowth was now ablaze and the smoke was billowing into the cave so it was a case of facing the flame throwers or suffocating to death which was a hard choice to make as it meant death either way. The urgent need for fresh air made them choose the latter course. When they ran out of the entrance they saw the flame throwing object beginning to ascend into the sky. It was clearly visible in the first light of dawn -- circular in shape and bright in appearance as if made of aluminum. I daresay some of the men who saw this strange phenomenon are alive today and can vouch for this story. For myself I can only vouch for the scorched and burnt undergrowth. Still it is another bit of evidence in support of the theory that flying objects do exist..."

Source: The Watford and West-Herts Post, 4/30/64.

LARGEST CELESTIAL CATALOG: The United States Naval Observatory has compiled a catalog of 491,848,883 stars and galaxies, a list that is 25 times larger than the previous record holder. The catalog contains coordinates for all objects down to about 21st magnitude. The entire database fills 388 CD-ROMs. The catalog will help astronomers point large telescopes more accurately and locate extremely faint objects such as asteroids and distant galaxies.

Source: Astronomy Magazine, November 1996.

NO KUIPER COMETS?: In June 1995 a team of astronomers led by Anita Cochran of the University of Texas at Austin announced that the Hubble Space Telescope had spotted a vast reservoir of comets lurking beyond Neptune in a region called the Kuiper Belt. Hubble, it was said, spotted roughly 30 objects the size of comet nuclei in the Kuiper Belt (see "First Drops in a Comet Reservoir," AstroNews, October 1995). But Cochran's team now reports that a second look by Hubble has come up empty, a result that might have been due to instrument noise. The team will look again later this year.

Source: Astronomy Magazine, October 1996.

SPECIAL OFFER. LO! NEWSLETTER Issues No 1 thru 6. A \$10.50 value for only \$6.00. Send to: LO! Offer, P.O. Box 347032 Cleveland, Ohio 44134.

COLLECTORS CORNER: The following magazines are one of a kind, unless otherwise specified. The price includes shipping. (First come, first served!) UFO Universe Magazine July 1988 - \$4.00, Sept 1988 - \$3.00, Nov 1988 - \$3.00, Summer 1989 - \$3.00, Fall 1989 - \$3.00, Winter 1989 - \$3.00, May 1990 - \$3.00. Final Frontier Magazine April 1988 No 1 -very rare- \$8.00. Astronomy Magazine July 1975 - \$5.00, Sept 1975 - \$5.00, Nov 1975 - \$5.00, Jan 1976 - \$5.00, Mar 1976 - \$5.00, Nov 1976 - \$5.00, Jan 1977 - \$4.00, Apr 1977 - \$4.00. FATE Magazine Specials No 131 \$2.00, No 132 \$2.00, No 133 Life On Mars \$3.00, No 135 Mystery Satellites \$2.50, No 144 \$2.00, No 155 \$2.00, No 156 \$2.00, No 159 UFO Kidnappings \$2.50. Classic paperback books- The Book of the Damned by Fort \$2.00, Pathways to the Gods by Von Daniken \$2.00, In Search of Ancient Gods by Von Daniken \$2.00, Invisible Horizons by Gaddis \$3.00, The UFO Experience by Hynek \$3.00, Crash Go the Chariots by Wilson \$3.00, Alien Abductions by Rogo \$3.00. Hard back book sale - The World of Flying Saucers by Menzel \$5.00, The Andreasson Affair by Fowler \$5.00, Intruders by Hopkins \$5.00. Just Found - Back issues of Flying Saucer Digest, only 2 to 4 of each in stock. These will go fast. Single issues \$3.00, 5 issues \$13.00, 10 issues \$24.00. Here are the issue numbers: 1, 3, 4, 6, 13, 14, 15, 19, 95, 98, 99, 100, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 112, 118, 119, 128. Starting with this issue - a new category for the really hard core collector. Extremely Rare Or Unique Publications - UFO Journal of Facts Magazine. In this magazine are eight 8" X 10" color photographs of UFOs ready for framing - \$10.00, Cosmic Astronauts Magazine, 1981. This magazine is filled with photos and illustrations. It's too good to pass up - \$9.00, Science Digest Magazine, May 1976. The great article titled "Tracking UFOs Scientifically" is in this issue - \$6.00. Act fast, Act first! Send to : UAPA - CC, Box 347032, Cleveland, OH 44134.

AROUND AND ABOUT THE SAUCER WORLD by Rick R. Hilberg

FLARES OR UFOs OVER LONG ISLAND SOUND?

The recent intense news coverage of the TWA Flight 800 tragedy has provided some interesting tidbits that have not received extensive coverage by the broadcast and print media. As a matter of fact, the two following items were heard by us on CBS radio news, but were not mentioned on NBC television news, nor did we find any write-ups in our Cleveland daily newspaper. Let's also make it quite clear that we in no way imply that UFOs had anything to do with the plane crash, but point out that throughout history UFO activity has often presaged or followed natural or human disasters.

On the evening of December 11th, a commercial airline flight crew saw what they described as a large flare-like object directly above their

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aircraft as they were outbound out of Kennedy airport over Long Island Sound, not far from the scene of the TWA crash.

A similar event happened in mid-November, when another flight crew reported seeing a similar flare-like object in the same general vicinity on a course described as ascending into the night sky. On this occasion an unnamed "astronomer" explained the incident as a "meteor shower."

For what it's worth, several witnesses described similar ascending objects on the night of the flight 800 disaster, leading some to point to a possible terrorist missile being responsible for the air tragedy. However, the missile theory has been generally discounted by crash investigators.

GROUP INVESTIGATING ILLINOIS SIGHTINGS

Mark Hodapp of the Centralia, Illinois Sentinel filed this very interesting report in the paper's August 8th edition:

A St. Louis volunteer group is conducting an investigation into reported sightings of UFOs in the Damiansville and Hillsboro areas on July 16 -17.

David Marler of Actaeon Investigations confirmed Wednesday that the two sightings are under investigation and said they are the first two reports of UFO sightings in Illinois in about eight months.

On July 17, a Damiansville woman reported seeing a triangular-shaped object flying just above the tree line south of the intersection of Damiansville Road and Interstate 64. By topographical map, that distance is estimated at 2 to 2½ miles.

She told Marler the object was flat on the bottom and had facets on the top and that it was very shiny, like polished steel.

Marler, a resident of Fairmont City, said he asked the woman, who has been guaranteed anonymity, to estimate the size of the object by holding various items between her thumb and forefinger at arms length. Three times the woman said the object was as big as a baseball.

"That huge!" Marler said in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

The woman told Marler she saw the object as she was approaching the interstate about 9:30 a.m. She said it stayed in the same position for four or five minutes and then vanished. She said she saw no trail of smoke or vapor and heard no noise.

Marler said the woman has worked at Scott Air Force Base and the object resembled no military aircraft she has ever seen.

He said she also referred the sighting to the St. Louis Science Center and that he met the woman through a friend in Mascoutah who assured him the woman was very credible and a former UFO skeptic.

Officials at Scott Air Force Base are checking flight logs to see if any military aircraft were in the vicinity at the time of the sighting. Marler said he had not yet received the Air Force's report.

No UFO reports were logged by the Clinton or Washington county sheriff's departments or Okawville police, Marler said.

He noted that between 9 and 10 p.m. the previous night, a couple in the Hillsboro area reported seeing two balls of light in the night sky. The lights were traveling at high rates of speed and making right-angle turns. At one point, the lights merged, then separated, and for a time they appeared to be chasing each other in a circular fashion.

Marler said the Hillsboro couple watched these lights for about 30 minutes. They heard no noise and finally the lights disappeared. One moved west at a high rate of speed and the other moved to the south. The light that moved south appeared to be gaining altitude, he said.

Actaeon Investigations consist of about a dozen volunteers and was formed about two years ago, breaking from other UFO discussion groups.

"We were frustrated by the lack of serious investigation into the reports we were getting," Marler said. "We wanted to talk to the witnesses and gather physical evidence. They wanted to talk about the latest episode of 'The X-Files.'"

Actaeon has chapters in St. Louis and Springfield, Mo., and works closely with the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) Chapter in Illinois.

"We make no claims as to what is happening," he said. "But people are seeing things and they ought to be investigated."

He said the Damiansville sighting is a good sighting in the sense that the woman's description is detailed. "I wish we had another witness to corroborate her statement," he said.

Marler said only about 10 percent of sightings are reported because of "the ridicule factor" such reporting causes.

Marler usually works with two other investigators checking UFO reports in Missouri and Illinois. In only one case has he found physical evidence associated with a sighting.

In May of 1995 a rough circular area of wheat gently bent at an angle, but not broken, was found in a pattern matching the physical shape of a UFO reported in the same area.

"MYSTERY LIGHT" BAFFLES OFFICIALS IN COLORADO

A mysterious light, described either as a "green flash" or a "blue bubble" in the skies over northern Colorado, caught the attention of several people September 8th, but authorities have no explanation of the incident.

Four people reported Monday to the Greeley Tribune that they saw green or blue lights between 8:30 and 9 p.m. Sunday. One woman said she knows of six other people who saw it.

"Some of the people were in Greeley and said it was north of them," said Judith Ball, "and others were in Eaton and said it was to the south."

Ball said the light was dark green and came up from the ground. "There was no noise," Ball said, "just a green light that covered the sky."

However, two men who didn't leave their names came to the Tribune offices Monday to report a "blue bubble" in the sky about the same time Sunday night. They said it was between Ault and Fort Collins and was "a blue light that filled the sky and formed a kind of a bubble on the ground."

Neither the Greeley police nor the Weld County Sheriff's Office reported anyone called about the flash, and scientists said they also had no reports.

At Colorado State University, physics professor Roger Culver, who writes a newspaper column about the night skies, said he hasn't received any reports of an unusual "green flash."

"I guess it could have been a meteor, but that isn't usually the way a meteor looks," he said.

Richard Dietz, professor of earth sciences at the University of Northern Colorado, said he hadn't received any reports of the green flash and added it's unlikely a meteor could cause that kind of light. He said if several people's eyewitness accounts of the light could be collected, it might give a better clue to the source of the light.

And while the Colorado State Patrol dispatchers said they hadn't received a green flash report Sunday night, they received a call Friday night reporting a UFO over Dacono. There were no other reports of a bright light hovering over the south-western Weld County town. Source: Mike Peters, Greeley Tribune, September 10, 1996.

NEVADA HUNTERS CLAIM UFO CHASED THEM

Two hunters camping near Cave Valley October 6th told a sheriff's deputy that an unidentified flying object chased them from Cave Valley to Lund.

David Cox of Henderson and Michael Jacobsen of Las Vegas claimed that a flying object with no engine sound and lights came by their campsite. They said they got in their car and tried to drive away, but the object chased them, following within 200 yards.

They said the object finally quit chasing them when they got near Lund. Source: Ely Times, October 7, 1996.

FAMILY WATCHES STRANGE OBJECTS IN ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO

Staffer Julie Marie Brown of the Roswell Daily Record filed the following report on September 10th:

Roswell's skies made for a beautiful sight Sunday night September 8th to anyone who enjoys the mystery of UFOs.

The bright light in Roswell's skies was not the moon, according to some Roswellites who were kept out of bed until about 1 a.m. viewing a UFO sighting in the south end of the city.

Daniel Valdez, of Juanito Road, described the objects he saw in the sky as an object with a bright white light in the middle and red and green lights on both sides.

Juanita Valdez called the Chaves County Sheriff's Department and Max Littell, board member of the International UFO Museum & Research Center.

Littell said the object was easy to see with the naked eye, but much easier with binoculars.

Littell and the Valdez family soon saw a second object farther toward the east, with lights the same as the first object.

The Valdez family reported still two more objects, smaller than the first two.

Three generations of the Valdez family viewed the lights for several hours. According to Valdez, the sheriff's deputies on the scene were unable to identify the objects. The deputies could not be reached for comment.

Littell said an airplane flew by and was distinguishable in the sky. The other objects were not the same, he said.

Valdez said the first object he saw in the northwest sky, which prompted the phone calls to Littell and the sheriff's office, disappeared and reappeared moving quickly towards the southwest sky.

A video was taken of the objects, but it's very hard to see them on the video, said Valdez.

Valdez said the sheriff's deputies attempted to reach the tower at the Roswell Industrial Air Center, but could not get through.

He added it was very exciting for everyone and they would definitely be out looking at the sky again.

1967 MONTANA INCIDENT REMEMBERED

Bob Guilluly of the Great Falls Tribune broke the story on this little-known incident from 30 years ago in the paper's August 13th edition:

When Robert L. Salas of Bellevue, Wash., walked into the Tribune newsroom for an interview a couple of weeks ago, he told an amazing story.

Salas, a former Air Force officer, detailed his role in an incident when an unidentified flying object reportedly hovered above a central Montana missile launch control center and shut down its electronic systems in 1967.

It happened in the Echo missile complex about midway between Hilger and Winifred, north of Lewistown. And it happened at a time when the area was awash in UFO reports. The Tribune carried at least a dozen civilian reports of mysterious lights in the sky around central Montana during 1966 and 1967.

At the time, officers at Malmstrom Air Force Base refused to comment.

Only later was it learned the Air Force had done a number of investigations and kept them secret in the interest of national security.

Salas, a graduate of the Air Force Academy, was a first lieutenant and deputy crew commander of the Echo launch center on the early morning of March 16, 1967. His post was in the underground capsule, where two officers were in readiness 24 hours a day to launch missiles if ordered.

Before daylight, Salas said, he received a call from a security guard above ground who reported flying objects in the sky doing strange maneuvers.

"I kinda dismissed it," said Salas. But five minutes later the guard called back and said a glowing red object was hovering outside the front gate of the center. "He was agitated and scared," Salas said. Because he could not leave his post under any circumstances, Salas said, he woke up the crew commander and alerted Malmstrom security forces.

Only minutes later, the launch center and all 10 missile sites in the Echo complex lost their electrical power. The backup system also was knocked out. "Everything was 'no go,'" the former officer said.

In the confusion, the glowing red object apparently disappeared. Events after that were anticlimactic.

Maintenance crews came out to fix the electrical systems; it took the rest of the day to bring them back on line. Salas was debriefed and told to say nothing. "I remember talking with a colonel who admitted he was shocked and mystified," said Salas. "He could think of no explanation."

Salas finished his tour at Malmstrom in 1969. He left the Air Force in 1971 and later joined the Federal Aviation Administration. He spent 22 years with the FAA, until retiring last fall.

Through the years, he said, he often wondered if there was an explanation. Or verification.

Only since the end of the Cold War has it been possible to get some Air Force documents declassified. Salas has obtained a report of the 1967 investigation. In it, the Air Force decided the UFO sighting was "disproven." But it contained no details of the probe or an explanation for that conclusion.

Salas is anything but a UFO junkie. But now he'd like to find some answers to the mystery of nearly 30 years ago in central Montana.

Salas thinks there may be some retired Air Force personnel in Montana who remember the incident. "I think some fighters were scrambled in response to our warning, and it's possible something was seen on radar. There were dozens of others in the chain of command who must have heard about it," he said.

UTAH CROP CIRCLE REPORTED

Logan wheat farmer Seth Alder has spent his whole life worrying about what the rain and bugs do to his crops.

On August 23rd, he was more concerned about visitors from another planet. That's because Alder, 81, found a mysterious design carved in his wheat field. And as far as he can tell, it wasn't made by anyone who got into the field on foot. No trail into the crop design was found.

Alder called the Cache County Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Olsen and Deputy Thurgood investigated and drew a diagram in their official reports. The design looks like a long-necked, long-tailed turtle on skis.

The investigation revealed the damage happened about a month before when the wheat stalks were still green. They were flattened, but not cut. The design is not visible from the nearest road, which is about 400 yards away.

"Whoever or whatever did it spent some time on it," Sgt. Olsen said. "Unless it was a big machine that sat down on it."

Source: Joshua B. Good, Salt Lake City Tribune August 25, 1996.